

(Continued from Fourth Page.)

able to demonstrate to you that a great part of the American and, indeed, of all the foreign names on the Annexation Club's list are foreigners, not citizens here at all. What just influence the membership of that club can have on the decision of the President and Congress of the United States on the question of annexation I need not say.

In the whole period between 1884 and 1892 only 198 foreigners have become naturalized citizens of Hawaii. The editor of the vigorous annexation organ came here less than four months ago, and the proprietor of this organ, a prominent leader in the annexation movement, while he has lived here more than a quarter of a century, has never, he tells me, become a Hawaiian citizen, but has—very sensibly, as I think—carefully retained his American citizenship. But is it right that he should attempt to destroy the government and nation which has so long given him hospitality?

A DISFRANCHISE POLICY.

The plain truth is that the annexation movement was to some extent engineered by men who are not citizens, aided and encouraged by the American Minister, who consulted with them and furnished United States troops, without which the leaders were helpless, to upset the constitutional government to which he was accredited.

If it comports with honor and good faith we can play that trick in any Central American and many South American States where Americans are settled. But such a filibustering policy would be a disgrace to us and put us out of the category of honorable nations. And all for what?

The annexationists here think only of themselves, not of us. It would, they fancy, be a pecuniary advantage to them to be annexed. "Millions of capital would pour in, a great influx of capital," and that is all.

Annexation is a speculation, and for that we of the United States are to give up a long settled and well approved national policy, and put ourselves in the category of European nations with distant colonies as weak spots to be attacked, requiring large navies and armies to defend. To please a handful of people, many of them not even citizens of this country, we are to assume the national burden of a foreign policy under which several European nations now groan.

WOULD REQUIRE A BIG DEFENSIVE FLEET.

Not could we, if we were in want of colonies, plant ourselves in a less convenient or defensible situation. We should have to defend four large islands and four smaller ones lying at some distances apart. To protect all against attack would require a great fleet in time of war.

The channel between Oahu and Kauai is sixty-six miles across, and the distance from Honolulu to Lahoe, the nearest convenient anchorage on Kauai, is ninety-three miles. The channel between Maui and Hawaii is twenty-eight miles wide and that between Oahu and Maui thirty-five miles. From Honolulu to Lahaina anchorage is seventy-two miles, and from Honolulu to Hilo Bay direct 200 miles. Thus the distances are not small.

The shore line to be guarded against smugglers or against an enemy is very extensive and almost everywhere open to boats. If we should annex the Islands I am confident smuggling would become a more profitable business than even sugar planting has been in the past.

To guard and defend those new possessions we are asked to spend \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000 in erecting forts at Pearl River lagoon and deepening its narrow and tortuous channel to the sea. I am not an engineer, but it struck me when I sailed up this long, crooked, narrow channel recently that, while there is room for a large fleet in the lagoon after it is dredged and deepened, it would be very easy for two hostile ships at the mouth to hopelessly imprison a whole fleet inside. One or two good sized merchant ships sunk at the entrance of the channel would completely bar the way out. As this channel is crooked and only wide enough for one ship to pass out at a time, two or three enemy's ships lying at a convenient distance at sea could sink and destroy the first of our own that attempted to get out of the Pearl lagoon trap and thus stop up the outlet.

WE DO NOT NEED HAWAII.

We do not need colonies, but when we do we ought to get one nearer home than 2100 miles and lying more compactly than this group of islands. If this pear were ripe, and we wanted pears, we ought not to pull it, but it is not ripe. We can always have all the influence here that we wish. The commerce of the islands is naturally and inevitably with us. Their contract and semi-servile labor system, necessary to their prosperity and productive, is repugnant to our institutions and to our customs, necessitates laws justly hateful to our working people, and collects here a mongrel population which is not fitted to one system of government.

Surely the influence of the planters over legislation is great and the compliance of the preponderant native members goes far when such a constitutional amendment as the following "regulating labor" can be passed, as this was in 1890 and again in 1892:

The Legislature may from time to time enact such laws as it may deem proper for the supervision and control and identification of all persons of any one class or nationality who may be introduced into the kingdom for the purpose of performing agricultural labor, and may also by law restrict and limit the term of residence in the kingdom of such agricultural laborers and the business and employment in which they may engage.

That is to say they are given power not only to establish a plantation or inter-island passport system for the contract of other laborer, thus limiting his already narrow right of passage from

place to place, but they may further make him helpless by restricting the occupations in which he may engage.

NOT WANTED BY FREE WORKINGMEN.

I repeat what I have before written, the planters are not inhuman, and they are an amiable and in many ways an excellent set of persons. It is the system on which their property and that of the Islands depends which requires, in the nature of things, such powers and regulations.

I do not believe the free workingmen of the United States will agree that such a system shall be incorporated as part of the United States by annexation. They would be great fools if they did. They might as well in that case give up their labor organizations and throw up their hands.

CHARLES NORDHOFF.

General Advertisements.

They Have Come!

Those Razor Strops you have been waiting for several weeks, are here. They are so good that it has been said of them, that if you lay your razor, and one of these strops down together on your washstand, the razor will keep a fine edge; still, we recommend following the directions printed on each strop.

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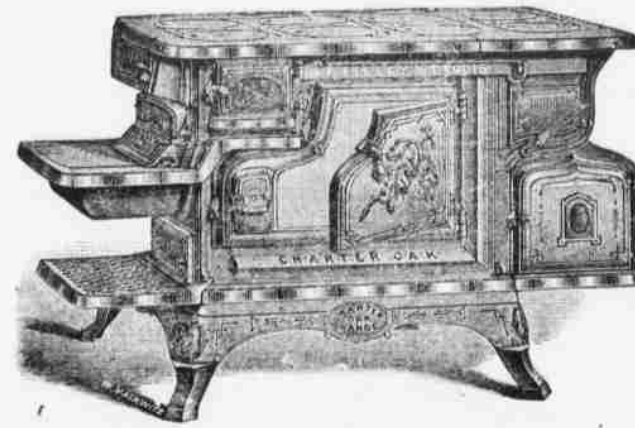
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